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**NOV 14 2008**

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November 13, 2008

Via e-mail

Mayor Patricia Mahan and Council Members Caserta, Kennedy, Moore, Kornder, Kolstad, and McLeod

Santa Clara City Council, City of Santa Clara  
(MayorandCouncil@santaclara.gov)

and

Jennifer Sparacino, City Manager  
City of Santa Clara  
(Jsparacino@santaclara.gov)

Re: Swim Center and International Swimming Hall of Fame Proposal at 11/18/08 Council Meeting

Dear Mayor, City Council Members, and City Manager,

I am writing in two capacities -- as a long time member of both the Santa Clara Swim Club Hall of Fame and the International Swimming Hall of Fame. I won three relay gold medals at the Tokyo Olympics and five individual NCAA championships, swimming for the legendary Santa Clara Swim Club coach, George Haines. I currently live in Larkspur with my wife, and work for CSI, a financial advisory firm (with a number of professional athlete clients across the country) in San Francisco.

With swimming still in my blood, I have volunteered to serve on the Exploratory Committee created to investigate the possible relocation of the International Swimming Hall of Fame from Fort Lauderdale to Santa Clara. I believe that possibility is incorporated into a four-part recommendation from the Parks & Recreation Commission which will be part of your agenda on Tuesday, November 18. That recommendation also relates to the possible relocation and/or redesign of a swimming pool complex which would expand on the existing and historically important George F. Haines International Swim Center.

I urge you to vote for the recommendation. My understanding is that an affirmative vote will merely instruct the appropriate City of Santa Clara staff to reconsider and possibly redesign a possibly enhanced and expanded swimming center. That vote will result in further analysis and planning for various alternatives, but will not constitute a binding decision. That final decision will be left to you if and when the City staff returns with its analysis and further recommendations.

I believe that there could be very significant synergy between an expanded Santa Clara Swimming Center and the International Swimming Hall of Fame, which as you may know has been located in Fort Lauderdale for the past 40 plus years. Many former Santa Clara Swim

Club swimmers and other aquatic competitors have been inducted into the ISHOF, including Chris von Saltza, Donna DeVarona, Don Schollander, Mark Spitz, Claudia Kolb, and of course George Haines. Both organizations in their different ways represent the worldwide pinnacle of competitive aquatic sports, and together they very well could be even a more significant force in serving both that symbolic and actual "hands-on" competitive role.

Obviously, the proposal needs to be studied carefully, in order to determine whether or not the apparent mutual interests of the City, its Swim Center, and the ISHOF do in fact overlap. I hope that you will see fit to authorize that study.

Details about the ISHOF operations and goals would best be explained by the CEO Bruce Wigo. However I will be in the audience next Tuesday the 18th in case you have any questions which I might be able to answer. And I'm happy to respond to e-mails or telephone calls before then, if you think that might be helpful.

Thanks for your serious consideration of this recommendation.

Very truly yours,

Stephen E. Clark  
cc: Cynthia Owens, Bruce Wigo